

Docket No. C2012-2

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**BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PETITION BY THE CITY OF PASADENA**

The City has intervened to request that the Commission order that the United State Postal Service not implement the changes in its 2011 “Network Optimization” plan, which includes closing the Pasadena Processing and Distribution Center (“P&DC”), until after the Commission issues an Advisory Opinion.

The Postal Service proposes to eliminate mail processing services through closure of the Mack Robinson P&DC, which must conform to the following statutory requirements:

When the Postal Service determines that there should be a change in the nature of postal services which will generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis, it shall submit a proposal, within a reasonable time prior to the effective date of such proposal, to the Postal Rate Commission [Postal Regulatory Commission] requesting an advisory opinion on the change. 39 U.S.C. 3661(b).

The Postal Service has not received an advisory opinion on the proposed changes. Nevertheless, the Postal Service intends to implement the Pasadena P&DC closure effective July 2012. In doing so, the Postal Service has failed to comply with the requirements described above.

In these circumstances, the City objects to the Postal Service's conclusion that it is appropriate to close the Pasadena processing and distribution center and consolidate those services elsewhere. The Postal Services' labor agreements require any employees impacted by the consolidation remain the USPS payroll at another facility. The result is a cost-shift, not a cost savings, and the cost savings due to consolidation seem to be quite small.

The City requests that the Commission return the matter for consideration by the Postal Service of the serious community impacts that the proposed closure will have by closing the Pasadena processing and distribution facility.

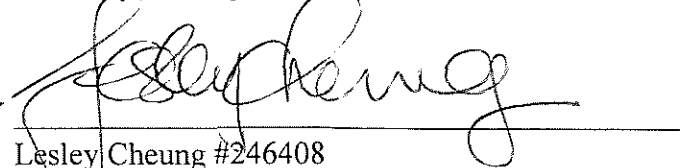
**WHEREFORE**, the City of Pasadena, CA hereby requests that the Commission suspend the effectiveness of the Postal Service's determination to close the Pasadena processing and distribution facility and return the matter to the Postal Service for further consideration in accordance with the procedures set forth in 39 U.S.C. 3661(b) and 3691 .

I, Lesley Cheung, Deputy City Attorney for the City of Pasadena, CA, hereby certify that I have read this document, know its contents, and have executed it as counsel for the City of Pasadena with full authority to do so, and that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, every statement contained herein is true and not misleading, and that this document has not been filed for the purpose of delay.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2012

The duly signed original is held in the file located at  
the City of Pasadena City Attorney's Department.

/s/ Lesley Cheung #246408

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley Cheung', is written over a horizontal line.

Lesley Cheung #246408

Deputy City Attorney

City of Pasadena



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 10, 2012

Manager, Consumer and Industry Contact  
Sierra Coastal District  
28201 Franklin Pkwy., Rm. 210  
Santa Clarita, CA 91383-9682

Dear Sir:

This relates to today's meeting being held to share initial results of an area mail processing study initiated to evaluate moving all remaining mail processing operations from Pasadena Processing & Distribution Center to the Los Angeles Processing & Distribution Center. The location of the meeting is Robinson Park Multipurpose Room, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91103-3012.

We understand that input from the public will be taken in regard to the initial results of the study and will be carefully considered prior to the making of a final decision.

Needless to say, as Mayor and Vice Mayor of Pasadena, we are strongly opposed to the relocation of mail processing operations from this City due to the detrimental impact such transfer will have on quality of mail service in this area and the related loss of approximately 263 positions. Such changes would come at a difficult time in the current economy of the City and should be considered, in whole or in part, only in the absence of any alternatives for achieving the cost saving needs of the U.S. Postal Service.

We recognize the significant financial strain USPS is under, and that USPS must take action to ensure its financial health. However, there is no clear evidence that eliminating the mail processing operations at Mack Robinson will cut costs for USPS. In fact, many questions remain as to the possible expenses of transporting mail greater distances and making the needed changes at other USPS facilities to bear the load. USPS's labor agreements, if respected, require that any employees impacted by the consolidation have the option of staying on the USPS payroll at another facility. This is a cost-shift, not a cost-savings. As a result, the cost savings for USPS from the proposed consolidations will be quite small.

January 10, 2012

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The current legal requirement that USPS prefund its retirement health benefit program by \$5.5 billion per year is a unique burden among federal agencies and one of the largest sources of USPS's operating losses. The United States Postal Service Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act (H.R. 1351), currently pending in the House of Representatives, would allow USPS to use the funds it has previously overpaid in retirement benefit liabilities to meet the onerous \$5.5 billion prefunding requirement, while minimizing any negative impact on its workforce or quality of service.

This approach is much superior to the relocation of mail processing operations currently being considered, and should be pursued.

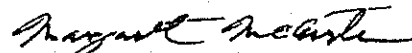
In the San Gabriel Valley, the local and efficient delivery of mail is central to the businesses that provide our jobs and fuel our economy. Pasadena is a commercial center for aerospace and scientific research industries that need consistent postal delivery services to succeed. Mack Robinson's mail processing facilities are critical economic assets for this City, the surrounding communities, and Southern California. Closure will cause degraded postal service for San Gabriel Valley residents as their mail is rerouted to distant facilities.

Any action taken now in Pasadena will not produce savings the USPS needs. With H.R. 1351, there is the real possibility of alleviating current losses. We remain convinced that a larger, more comprehensive approach to addressing USPS's finances is the most appropriate way to ensure the long-term fiscal solvency while minimizing the loss of postal service and local jobs for our communities.

Sincerely,



BILL BOGAARD  
Mayor



MARGARET MCAUSTIN  
Vice Mayor

cc: Kerry Wolny, District Manager, Sierra Coastal District  
Hon. Patrick R. Donahoe, Postmaster General

CITY OF PASADENA  
City Council Minutes  
June 18, 2012 – 5:30 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chamber

**DRAFT**

REGULAR MEETING

**OPENING:**

The Mayor called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Masuda.

**ROLL CALL:**

Councilmembers:

Mayor Bill Bogaard  
Vice Mayor Margaret McAustin  
Councilmember Victor Gordo  
Councilmember Chris Holden (Arrived at 6:39 p.m.)  
Councilmember Steve Madison (Arrived at 7:23 p.m.)  
Councilmember Gene Masuda  
Councilmember Jacque Robinson  
Councilmember Terry Tornek

Staff:

City Manager Michael J. Beck  
Chief Assistant City Attorney Nicholas Rodriguez  
City Clerk Mark Jomsky

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

Ardis Willwerth, Pasadena Museum of History Director of Exhibitions and Programming, announced various activities that will be held on June 23, 2012 in celebration of the City's 126th birthday.

Councilmember Gordo arrived at 6:39 p.m.

Fausto De La Torre, Villa-Parke Boxing Club Coach, introduced three of the Club's amateur boxers who recently competed in the 2012 California Police Activities League (PAL) State Boxing Championships/Adidas National Tournament and won the following medals/titles:

Paul Davis, Senior Class National Champion  
Edward Lam, Intermediate Class National Champion  
Christian Camarena, Intermediate Class Silver Medal

The Mayor congratulated the young boxers, and the City provided Certificates of Recognition to them for their accomplishments.

Councilmember Gordo acknowledged the Coach and staff for the successful boxing program at Villa-Parke Community Center.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON  
MATTERS NOT ON THE  
AGENDA**

The following persons expressed concerns regarding the impending closure of the mail processing center at the Mack Robinson Post Office, and impacts on the postal employees and the City; and asked the City Council to take action in strongly opposing any changes at this location:

Mrs. Delano Robinson, Pasadena resident  
Joanna Foster, Pasadena resident  
Joe Brown, Pasadena Branch NAACP President  
Ishmael Trone, Pasadena resident  
Cory Campbell, Pasadena resident  
Cornell T. Woods, postal employee  
Michael Evans, American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO  
representative, submitted a copy of the Union's complaint  
to the Postal Regulatory Commission regarding violations  
of 39 U.S.C. 3661 and 3691  
Mike Wyly, National Association of Letter Carriers  
President  
Christopher Allen, Pasadena resident  
Dr. Nicholas M. Benson, I.M.A. representative  
Carolyn Zorn, letter carrier  
Jan Siechert, Pasadena resident  
Paul Krehbiel, Pasadena resident  
Osvaldo Quintana, National Postal Mail Handlers Union/  
Pasadena Branch President speaking as an individual

Floyd Folven, Pasadena resident, read and submitted his  
written concerns regarding various City budgetary issues and  
its financial standing.

James Lomako, Pasadena resident, described problems  
involving concrete gutter and curb work that was performed by  
the City in front of his house on Whitefield Road, and asked  
staff to contact him about correcting the concrete work  
problems as part of a remediation project that the City is  
undertaking in this area.

#### MOTION TO ADD ITEM TO THE AGENDA

Councilmember Gordo expressed concerns regarding the loss  
of local jobs that will result from the U.S. Postal Service (USPS)  
proposed service changes at Mack Robinson Post Office, the  
negative impacts of the proposed changes on a post office  
having historical significance, and the issue of degradation of  
mail services in the City; and asked that the City Council take  
appropriate action on this matter.

Councilmember Robinson expressed concerns regarding the  
steps being taken by USPS to expedite these changes without  
notifying the City.

The Chief Assistant City Attorney highlighted the Ralph M.  
Brown Act provisions for adding an agenda item after the  
agenda has been posted, if the City Council would want to  
discuss and take action on this matter on an urgency basis, as  
part of the current Council meeting.

Councilmember Holden commented on the time-sensitive  
nature of any actions the City might want to pursue, and

Councilmember Madison arrived at 7:23 p.m.

suggested this matter be added to the agenda as an urgency item, given the need to discuss and give direction to the City Attorney's Office on potential litigation involving the USPS proposed service changes at the Mack Robinson Post Office during a closed session, and to also discuss possible additional actions to declare the City's opposition to the proposed service changes.

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Holden, seconded by Councilmember Robinson, to find that the matter of U.S. Postal Service (USPS) actions to change the operations at Mack Robinson Post Office had come to the attention of the City after the posting of the agenda, that there was a need to take immediate action on this matter prior to the next scheduled City Council meeting on July 9, 2012, and that an agenda item on the USPS proposed service changes at Mack Robinson Post Office be added to the agenda on an urgency basis. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: None)

#### ITEM THAT AROSE AFTER POSTING OF THE AGENDA

#### **UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (USPS) PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES AT THE MACK ROBINSON POST OFFICE**

Brief discussion followed on actions the City might take in support of its opposition to the service (operations) changes that USPS will be implementing at the Mack Robinson Post Office.

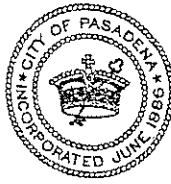
It was moved by Councilmember Holden, seconded by Councilmember Gordo, to send a strongly-worded letter to the appropriate persons/parties regarding the City's opposition to the proposed service changes at the Mack Robinson Post Office; and to direct the City Attorney's Office to review the American Postal Workers Union pending litigation submitted as part of public comment, and explore any legal options that the City Council might consider to further support the City's position in opposition to the proposed service changes. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: None)

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

#### **AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL AGREEMENTS WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (METRO) ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDING AND THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PASADENA WAYFINDING PROGRAM**

##### Recommendation:

- (1) Find that the following proposed actions are exempt from review, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3); and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all agreements with



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 19, 2012

The Hon. Patrick R. Donahoe  
Postmaster General  
U.S. Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe:

On behalf of a unanimous City Council and a community that is seriously concerned, I am writing to express strong opposition to consolidating Pasadena's Mack Robinson Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC). We are informed that the Mack Robinson P&DC is one of 48 facilities where you intend to conduct "limited consolidation activity" starting next month. Dismantling of machines and equipment is scheduled to begin July 2. The plan calls for fully closing this important facility in early 2013.

The stakes in this situation are incredibly high, not only for the hundreds of postal workers who will be displaced and see their livelihoods threatened, but for Pasadena's economy as a whole. We are concerned about the wellbeing of the loyal workers and their families who will be so negatively impacted by the proposed action.

Pasadena is recovering from one of the toughest economic downturns in generations. The closure will place significant economic and financial hardship on Pasadena's businesses, residents and postal employees. The local and efficient delivery of mail is central to the businesses in Pasadena that provide our jobs and fuel our economy. Mack Robinson's mail processing facility is a critical economic asset for Pasadena, the surrounding communities, and Southern California. Its closure will also likely cause degraded postal service for San Gabriel Valley residents and businesses as their mail is rerouted to distant facilities.

Consolidating the mail sorting facilities at the Mack Robinson P&DC is misguided because doing so will not achieve the cost savings that USPS suggests it will. USPS has described labor cost reductions as the predominate savings mechanism in consolidations, but USPS's labor agreements require that any employees impacted by the consolidation remain on the USPS payroll at another facility. The result is a cost-shift, not a cost-savings and the cost



Hon. Patrick R. Donahoe  
June 19, 2012  
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savings due to consolidation seem to be quite small. It would be a mistake to close the Mack Robinson plant when there is no evidence that suggests that it will substantially reduce USPS's operating expenses. Moreover, closing the facility and others like it will cause serious damage to USPS's core strength—its nationwide network of facilities.

There is legislation—H.R. 1351—which would use funds USPS has overpaid to the federal government in the past to pay the current obligation of the USPS to prefund its future retiree health benefit (which is the source of USPS's financial problems). Please give Congress time to find a comprehensive solution, such as H.R. 1351, that will actually put USPS on strong financial footing instead of making cuts that are only a drop in the bucket compared to the financial challenges facing the USPS.

Finally, closing the mail sorting facilities so close to the election in November will have unknown impacts on voting by mail in the state. This is still another important consideration that prompts the City of Pasadena to urge strongly that the consolidation of the P&DC be deferred. We have no choice but to consider every means to mitigate or avoid the negative impacts of this action.

Sincerely,



BILL BOGAARD  
Mayor

BB:jls

cc: Kerry Wolny, District Manager, Sierra Coastal District  
Manager, Consumer and Industry Contact, Sierra Coastal District  
Ruth Y. Goldway, Chair, U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission

*Wesley Thomas*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
RECEIVED



2012 JUN 20 AM 8:57

June 18, 2012

Mayor Bill Bogaard  
100 N. Garfield Ave., Room S228  
Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear Mayor Bogaard,

This is to inform you of the U.S. Postal Service's decision to consolidate mail processing operations at the Pasadena Processing & Distribution Center (P&DC) with those of the Los Angeles P&DC.

We advised you on January 10, 2012, of our intent to conduct a feasibility study. After review, we have decided this consolidation is in the best interest of the U.S. Postal Service and will result in significant savings.

I want to assure you that the community's input was valued and carefully considered before making this decision. Ultimately, based on all of the factors involved, it was determined to proceed with the consolidation.

Because of the drastic decline in mail volume, the Postal Service is in a fiscal crisis and must take action to reduce the size of its mail processing network. Consolidating operations such as this is necessary if the Postal Service is to remain viable to provide mail service to the nation.

We expect this transition to be completed by July 7, 2012. As part of this consolidation, we may have to reassign some employees to the Los Angeles P&DC or to other vacant positions.

Local mail delivery will not be affected by this move. Full retail services, Post Office Box delivery and Business Mail Acceptance will still be available and our customers will continue to receive the same excellent service they always have.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Theresa Salvador, Manager, Consumer & Industry Contact, at 661 775-6642.

Sincerely,

Kerry L. Wolny  
Sierra Coastal District Manager

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## Strong Opposition to Consolidating Pasadena's Mack Robinson Mail Processing and Distribution Center

Wednesday, 13 June 2012 07:36

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Yesterday, Representatives Judy Chu (CA-32), Grace Napolitano (CA-38) and Adam Schiff (CA-29) urged U.S. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe to reconsider his decision to close Pasadena's Mack Robinson Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) and the City of Industry P&DC. Donahoe announced new plans last week to consolidate the two facilities, jeopardizing the livelihoods of hundreds of local employees and threatening the timely delivery of mail throughout the entire region. According to the USPS plan, the Pasadena facility's mail processing capacity will be dramatically reduced this summer through so-called "limited consolidation activity." The three Congressional leaders sent a letter to the Postmaster General to express their strong opposition and released the following statements:

**Rep. Judy Chu (CA-32):** "I am deeply troubled by the Postal Service's announcement on the pending consolidation of the Pasadena & City of Industry mail processing facilities. Hundreds of our neighbors have been struggling with the possible consolidation of both the Pasadena and Industry facilities for far too long. Not only are the livelihoods of postal workers being turned upside down, but our small businesses and economy will be adversely impacted by degraded mail services. I have consistently and strongly fought these mail processing center closures in our area and this is truly a sad development."

**Rep. Grace Napolitano (CA-38):** "We have attempted for years to work with the Postal Service, meeting with their officials, requesting information, and supporting legislation that would ease their financial troubles without harming jobs or our economy. The Postal Service should hold off on closing the Pasadena and City of Industry mail processing facilities until Congress can finish its work on legislation that would save USPS billions of dollars per year. We must continue to work together until we can put the Postal Service on solid financial footing without sacrificing the local jobs and timely mail service that are critical for our economy."

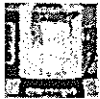
**Rep. Adam Schiff (CA-29):** "I remain deeply disappointed by USPS's short sighted decision to close the mail sorting facilities at Mack Robinson and the City of Industry. The closure of these and other mail processing facilities across the county will result in the losses of thousands of good-paying jobs and impair the efficient delivery of mail. I will continue to urge the Postmaster General to refrain from this destructive course, and develop a more sensible and comprehensive solution to USPS's poor financial health."

Chu, Napolitano and Schiff have been outspoken advocates for the preservation of both the Mack Robinson and City of Industry's P&DCs. The two facilities service countless local businesses and act as major arteries for shipments throughout Southern California.

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## Postal Workers Rally Against Closing

- Posted by [Dean Lee](#) on June 19, 2012 at 3:56pm
- [View Blog](#)



Almost 100 Pasadena postal employees and residents rallied Wednesday morning, including 97 year old Joanna Foster who said she was personal friends with Mack Robinson, the very person The U.S. Post Office's processing plant in Pasadena, scheduled to close, as early as July 7, was named.

"My husband worked for the Post Office 32 years," Foster said. "He was a World War I veteran."

Although Foster said her husband Walter Carter did not know Robinson he was a good friend of hers, "I knew him well."

Foster said Robinson was known in the 1940s for getting all the young people together and provide jobs, "That was a blessing," she said.

Foster's comments echo sentiments of the 210 employees worried they will be reassigned outside of Pasadena as part of moving all Pasadena mail processing to the Los Angeles mail processing plant.

Michael Evans, President of the American Postal Workers Union, said at issue was that mail service in the area would be delayed.

"They have already taken out part of the mail service in 2006, it's what's called outgoing mail," he said. "What they are doing now is what is call incoming processing, any mail that comes into the processing center is what they want to take out."

Evans said those affected include everything from people who get Netflix to the elderly such as Foster who might get medicine through the mail.

Although union organizers have threatened legal action, NAACP president Joe Brown said they needed to find another way saying a federal injunction could take years, "We have less than 30 days." He said. Brown suggested everyone call their legislative leaders from Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard to President Barack Obama.

Evans said the Mack Robinson Post Office on Lincoln Avenue would remain open for retail services and mail drop-offs. In 1936, Robinson won a Silver Medal in the Olympics. He died in 2000 in Pasadena at the age of 85.

Views: 14

Tags: [Mack](#), [Pasadena](#), [Robinson](#), [employees](#), [postal](#)

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## Pasadena postal workers push back against planned closure

By Brian Charles, *SGVN* [twitter.com/JBrianCharles](https://twitter.com/JBrianCharles) Pasadena Star-News

Posted:

PasadenaStarNews.com

PASADENA - The last days of mail processing at the Mack Robinson Post Office on Lincoln Avenue are drawing near.

The U.S. Post Office's Pasadena processing plant named after the famed Pasadena resident who earned a Silver Medal in the 1936 Olympics will close on July 7, leaving 210 employees wondering where they will land.

"There are about 210 impacted employees in Pasadena. They will be reassigned to vacant positions following our collective bargaining agreements," said Richard Maher, Post Office spokesman. "They could be reassigned to vacant positions at other processing plants or at local Post Offices and stations."

The Mack Robinson Post Office will remain open for retail service, but will cease large-scale mail processing, Maher added.

Many of the employees will relocate to the Los Angeles mail processing plant, but some may be forced out of Southern California. Those who are forced to move more than 50 miles, will receive relocation money, Maher said.

Officials from the Post Office didn't give any assurances that the closure would not result in layoffs.

Postal employees began hatching last ditch efforts Wednesday to stop the closure. They met in the cramped gymnasium behind the Pasadena-branch NAACP headquarters on Lincoln Avenue to talk strategy and rally the workers to fight back against the plans to shut down a plant that an area activist called a vital employer for residents in Northwest Pasadena.

Pasadena-branch NAACP President Joe Brown, a former Post Office employee himself, told the crowd of nearly 100 postal workers that the Post Office's local district manager Kelly Wolny has not been transparent with the public about the closure and the fate of the employees affected by the contraction.

"We have a district manager who is totally disingenuous," Brown said.

The Mack Robinson Post Office closure was scheduled for August, but moved up to July for reasons the agency has not disclosed.

The workers, backed by the Pasadena-branch NAACP, have threatened legal action against the Post Office to stop the closure.

"Wolny is going to feel the pressure," Brown said.

Political pressure against the closure of the Pasadena processing plant and plants like it across the country has been mounting. Representatives, Judy Chu, D-El Monte, Adam Schiff, D-Pasadena, along with state Senator Carol Liu, D-Glendale and the entire Pasadena City Council has voiced their

opposition to the closure in public and in letter sent to the Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe.

The Post Office faces many of the same challenges facing newspapers. What was a captive audience that had no choice but to rely on letter carriers to deliver bills, coupons and correspondence has been lost to the Internet, Postal officials said. More customers are turning to the Internet to pay their bills, buy tickets and shop. The result has been a nose-dive in letter delivery, but a rise in the number of packages delivered.

Over the last five years mail volume has declined by more than 43 billion items, according to Postal Service officials. Meanwhile, Postal officials expect the number of parcels, or packages, delivered will increase over the next decade.

The Post Office has responded by slashing jobs, consolidating routes and placing freezes on full-time hiring.

However, the Internet is not the only culprit in the Post Office's recent struggles.

A Congressional mandate to fund its pension obligations some 75 years out has been the Post Office's albatross, according to many workers. Money needed to operate the Post Office is being used to pay for pension benefits for employees not yet born.

Beyond the grim realities of an eroding customer base, the contraction of a U.S. institution almost as old as the nation itself disheartens many loyal customers and those who looked to the Post Office as a place to earn a decent living.

"I was amazed and discouraged about the closure," said Joanna Foster, whose late husband Walter Carter spent 32 years as a Post Office employee.

The presence of the Mack Robinson Post Office, a hulking building on the corner of Lincoln Avenue serves as a fitting tribute to the man, who was much more than an athlete and the brother of famed baseball player Jackie Robinson.

"Mack Robinson was a wonderful man. I remember he would go through the community collecting the children and giving them jobs so they would gain work experience."

In a letter sent to the Pasadena-branch NAACP on Wednesday, Mack Robinson's widow, Delano Robinson, lamented the planned closure of the plant.

"The disruption of mail processing caused by the closure of the facility will affect the livelihood of many employees, leaving them with no benefits and paychecks to meet their bills or feed their families, which is so sad," Delano Robinson wrote.

brian.charles@sgvn.com

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## First-class delivery

### Councilwoman hand delivers letter by mayor and council opposing closure of Mack Robinson Post OFFICE

By [André Coleman](#) 06/28/2012

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In a tersely worded letter, Mayor Bill Bogaard and the Pasadena City Council opposed the postmaster general's November 2011 decision to close the Matthew "Mack" Robinson Post Office Building on Lincoln Avenue, stating, "The stakes in this situation are incredibly high, not only for the hundreds of postal workers who will be displaced and see their livelihoods threatened, but for Pasadena's economy as a whole."



The letter goes on to state, "We are concerned about the well-being of the loyal workers and their families, who will be so negatively impacted by the proposed action."

Calling the postal center a critical economic asset for Pasadena, the letter also states that closing the facility would place a significant hardship on local businesses, which fuel the local economy, and could even have impacts on the November election.

The letter ends with an ominous warning that seems to indicate the city may not be willing to sit idly by as the facility is closed.

"We have no choice but to consider every means to mitigate or avoid the negative impact of this action," the letter ends without offering any specifics.

One option could be filing a lawsuit to stop the closure, but nothing definite has been decided, city spokesman William Boyer said Monday.

The letter was not mailed, Boyer said. Instead, it was hand-delivered by City Councilmember Jacque Robinson, who was in Washington, DC, last week for a conference.

According to Boyer, the closure could begin as early as Tuesday. Closing the center could delay local mail by several days as it goes instead to Los Angeles, the City of Industry or Santa Clarita for processing before delivery.

In December, the Postal Service announced 3,700 post offices and mail-processing hubs would be shuttered. In January, Congress established a moratorium on the closures, which ended in May. After that, plans to close the local post office began moving swiftly with no communication between the USPS and city officials, according to Bogaard.

Critics of plans to close post offices around the country claim the proposed closures are part of a move toward privatization, which would allow the Postal Service to raise rates and log work hours without congressional approval.

The Postal Service estimates it will lose up to \$18 billion a year by 2015 due, in large part, to a congressionally mandated \$5.5-billion annual payment to pre-fund retiree health benefits, combined with a drop in mail volume sparked by online bill paying and the rise of email.

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Just as a side note, since city government travel expenses have become a "tender" topic in the news recently, will Council person Robinson be posting just how much money she spent on meals, travel, and other city credit card-chargeable amenities that Pasadena's population is footing the bill for?

Anyway, why exactly is she in WDC right now, and who else from the city may be with her doing whatever she's doing (besides delivering notes from the mayor) on the taxpayer's dime?

# Reps. Chu, Napolitano & Schiff Hold Press Conference Denouncing Postal Consolidation

Jul 3, 2012 | Issues: [Jobs and the Economy](#)

Washington, DC – Yesterday, Representatives Judy Chu (CA-32), Grace Napolitano (CA-38) and Adam Schiff (CA-29) held a press conference at Pasadena City Hall to urge U.S. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe to reconsider his decision to close Pasadena's Mack Robinson Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) and the City of Industry P&DC. The three Congressional leaders were joined by Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, local leaders of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), union representatives from American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the Letter Carriers Union, as well as postal employees and local business owners who will be adversely impacted by the closings. The three Congressional leaders released the following statements:

Rep. Judy Chu (CA-32): "I am deeply troubled by the pending consolidation of the Pasadena and City of Industry mail processing facilities. Not only are the livelihoods of postal workers being turned upside down, but our small businesses and economy will be hurt by degraded mail services. I have consistently and strongly fought these mail processing center closures in our area and this is truly a sad development."

Rep. Grace Napolitano (CA-38): "We have attempted for years to work with the Postal Service, meeting with their officials, requesting information, and supporting legislation that would ease their financial troubles without harming jobs or our economy. The Postal Service should hold off on closing the Pasadena and City of Industry mail processing facilities until Congress can finish its work on legislation that would save USPS billions of dollars per year. We must continue to work together until we can put the Postal Service on solid financial footing without sacrificing the local jobs and timely mail service that are critical for our economy."

Rep. Adam Schiff (CA-29): "Today, we joined together with postal workers and community leaders to express our deep disappointment with the USPS's short-sighted decision to close the mail sorting facilities at Mack Robinson. The closure of mail processing facilities in Los Angeles and across the county will result in the losses of thousands of good-paying jobs and impair the efficient delivery of mail. I will continue to urge the Postmaster General to refrain from this destructive course, and develop a more sensible and comprehensive solution to USPS's poor financial health. It's my hope that the out crying of strong community support for Mack Robinson might halt their plans."

U.S. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe announced plans in May to consolidate Pasadena's Mack Robinson Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) and the City of Industry P&DC, jeopardizing the livelihoods of hundreds of local employees and threatening the timely delivery of mail throughout the entire region. According to the USPS plan, the Pasadena facility's mail processing capacity will be dramatically reduced this summer through so-called "limited consolidation activity."

Chu, Napolitano and Schiff have been outspoken advocates for the preservation of both the Mack Robinson and City of Industry's P&DCs. The two facilities service countless local businesses and act as major arteries for shipments throughout Southern California.

Their most recent letter to the Postmaster General can be found below:

May 31, 2012

The Honorable Patrick R. Donahoe  
Postmaster General  
U.S. Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe,

We write to again express our strong opposition to consolidating Pasadena's Mack Robinson Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) and the City of Industry P&DC. On May 18, 2012, you notified us that the Mack Robinson P&DC is one of 48 facilities where you will be conducting "limited consolidation activity" this summer. Your plan then calls for fully closing the Pasadena P&DC in early 2013 and later closing the Industry P&DC in a second wave of consolidations.

Consolidating either of these facilities would have dramatic and dire consequences for our constituents, area businesses, and postal workers. The first step in your plan – the so-called "limited consolidation" of the Mack Robinson P&DC – is extremely troubling. Out of approximately 270 employees, you plan on sending 128 clerks and 44 mail handlers to the Los Angeles P&DC. Another 37 maintenance employees would be sent to work at a Santa Clarita installation. Removing these workers from the Mack Robinson P&DC is not a limited consolidation – it is gutting the very core of the facility and would destroy its mail processing capacity, thereby delaying mail deliveries throughout the area. We believe Congress must have an opportunity to address the Postal Service's finances through comprehensive legislation before you move ahead with these crippling cuts. The Senate has already passed their bill, S. 1789, with bipartisan support. It would be improper for USPS to proceed with

such far-reaching decisions before Congress has a chance to make necessary reforms to the Postal Service.

Moreover, we do not see how the two gaining facilities in Mack Robinson's "limited consolidation" can accommodate so many new workers, even when considering how early retirement offers may reduce the number of employees. We demand that you provide us with the current number of vacant positions that are now available in these gaining facilities and provide us with clear answers as to what will happen to these workers.

The stakes are incredibly high not only for the hundreds of postal workers who will be displaced and see their livelihoods threatened, but it will harm Southern California's economy as a whole. The communities we are privileged to represent are recovering from one of the toughest economic downturns in generations. Both the Pasadena area and the City of Industry are bustling centers of commerce and their businesses need timely and reliable mail deliveries to succeed. We are at a critical juncture with the nation's economic recovery and moving ahead with these consolidations will make these businesses less competitive.

Moreover, it is also very troubling to consider how even the "limited" consolidation of the Mack Robinson facility alone may affect our constituent's voting rights as the general election quickly approaches. 41.6% of all California voters cast their ballots by mail in the 2008 general election, and California Secretary of State Debra Bowen has expressed her grave reservations on how mail processing facility closures may adversely affect voters. Indeed, after three USPS mail processing centers were closed in California last year, ballots sent in by mail took up to seven days to arrive at county election offices. We believe your phased-in schedule for consolidating mail processing facilities in of itself demonstrates the challenge of shutting down mail processing centers at this critical time, as you admit there will be no "consolidation activities" for

mail processing centers between September 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 because of "...heightened mail volumes predicted for the election and holiday mailing seasons..."

We believe Congress must come to your aid and help right USPS finances – but moving ahead with these severe cuts now would impose far-reaching hardships on our constituents before a more reasonable solution could be found. We request a prompt reply to our concerns and to meet with you personally to discuss this situation before you proceed any further.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

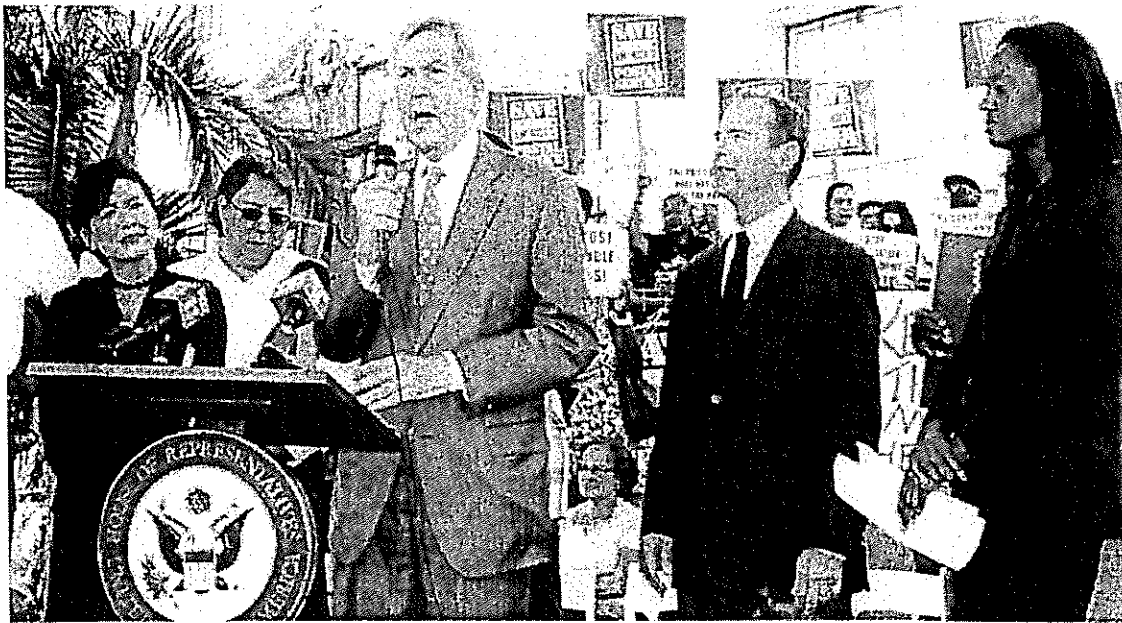
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Shopping/Giving Back  
Service Benefits:

- Gatherings
- People
- Special Pasadena Hoy
  - Travel
  - Wheels
- Español

## Demonstrators Decry Decision to Close Pasadena Postal Facility

*Mayor, Congress Members Join Union Members, Protest USPS Decision to Close Mack Robinson*



Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard addresses the demonstrators. [Photo: James Macpherson]

By STEVE MORRIS

Published: Tuesday, July 3, 2012 | 4:43 AM

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Members of Occupy Pasadena joined with postal workers, union officials, and area politicians on Monday evening to demonstrate near the steps of City Hall against the USPS's decision to close the Mack Robinson Mail Processing Facility.

Between speeches, many shouted chants of "keep it open" and "back off" during the protest. Congresswoman

Judy Chu was one of the first to address the assembly.

“If this plan goes through, it will literally destroy Mack Robinson’s mail processing capacity,” said Chu. “Mail will be processed far away in Los Angeles, needlessly delaying mail delivery. We can’t give up.

“They’re calling it a “limited consolidation” but it’s limited only in name,” Chu continued. “If the post office goes through with its plan, it will have significant consequences for San Gabriel Valley residents, businesses, and our dedicated postal office workers.”

The reason for Monday’s demonstration was the Postal Regulatory Commission’s Saturday denial of the American Postal Workers Union’s request for an emergency order to stop USPS from implementing its latest plan to consolidate mail processing service centers across the nation.

That decision directly affects facilities like Pasadena leading to their closure in many cases.

“What makes this so excruciatingly frustrating is that this is so unnecessary,” said Congressman Adam Schiff. “We all know that there has been a decrease in the volume of first class mail because of the increase use of email. We understand that that’s a problem that has to be dealt with. But the post office has much bigger financial problems.

“I remember when we came here to dedicate this facility and I’m here to say that Mack Robinson is part of our community,” added Schiff. “These are good, dedicated public servants who deliver our mail, who bring us our packages, and they are part of our community.”

Others spoke about the part that the Mack Robinson facility has played in making it a crucial part of the community. One recalled that, in order to erect the facility, a church was closed and a school was moved. To close the facility now would be “a slap in the face to the many who sacrificed” to get it built, the speaker said.

“Pasadena is recovering from one of the toughest economic climates we’ve experienced in generations,” stated Mayor Bill Bogaard. “Our economic recovery is fragile. This action simply puts further jeopardy on our economic recovery and all the economic benefits that come to the people of this community. Let’s keep it open.”

More than 200 postal workers are affected by the decision. Most will have to commute long distances to other locations, move away, or find other work. The USPS overall plan will lose or consolidate a total of 229 — half of the nation’s mail processing centers—by the end of 2014.

## Comments



Add a comment...

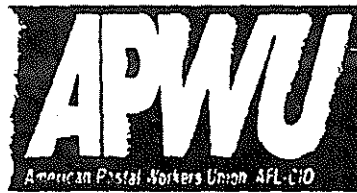
Posting as Lesley Cheung (Not you?)

Comment

Post to Facebook

Facebook social plugin





## **PASADENA NEIGHBORS: YOUR MAIL DELIVERY IS UNDER ATTACK.**

**THE MACK ROBINSON (Lincoln) POSTAL  
PROCESSING FACILITY IS SCHEDULED TO CLOSE  
JULY 7, 2012 UNLESS YOU ACT NOW!**

### **PRESS CONFERENCE/RALLY - MONDAY JULY 2**

**Pasadena City Hall – 100 N Garfield Ave 5:30 to 6:30 PM**

Congressional Representatives: Judy Chu, Adam Schiff and Grace Napolitano, Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard & the City Council will speak to call for an immediate moratorium on closure. Your support is crucial to stopping this assault on your constitutional rights. If the Processing Center closes, your mail will be delayed up to 3-4 days, business mail will be impaired, medicine delayed and church and community communications slowed -- your life will be dramatically affected.

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?**

- Attend the press conference on Monday, July 2 at Pasadena City Hall from 5:30 to 6:30 pm and let your voices be heard!
- Learn about what is going on in Pasadena and all over the country. Post offices are being closed in a continued effort to degrade service and ultimately privatize your constitutionally protected mail service. Watch the video from local Postal Worker Cornell Woods here: <http://youtu.be/wogno4AdGkU>
- Contact the White House at 202-456-1111 and demand a moratorium on post office closings and the replacement of Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/write-or-call#call>

# CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATURE

<p><b>President Barack Obama (D-US)</b>  Website: <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov">www.whitehouse.gov</a>  <b>Washington Office:</b>  District of Columbia 20500  (202)456-1414  Fax: (202) 456-2461</p>	<p><b>California State Legislators</b>  <b>Senator Carol Liu</b>  501 N. Central Avenue  Glendale, CA 91203  Assistant: <a href="mailto:talin.mangioğlu@sen.ca.gov">talin.mangioğlu@sen.ca.gov</a>    <b>Assemblyman Anthony J. Portantino</b>  <b>District Office</b>  215 N. Marengo, Suite 115  Pasadena, CA 91101  (626) 577-9944  <a href="mailto:anthony.portantino@asm.ca.gov">anthony.portantino@asm.ca.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe</b>  U.S. Postal Service  475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  Washington, DC 20260-0010  Fax 202-268-5211</p>	<p><b>City of Pasadena</b>    <b>Mayor Bill Bogaard</b>  100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228  P.O. Box 7115  Pasadena, CA 91109-7215  (626) 744-4411 <a href="mailto:bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net">bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net</a>    <b>District 1: Councilmember Jacque Robinson</b>  Field Representative: Tina Williams  (626) 744-4444 <a href="mailto:district1@cityofpasadena.net">district1@cityofpasadena.net</a>  <b>District 2: Vice Mayor Margaret McAustin</b>  Field Representative: Margo Morales-Fuller  (626) 744-4742 <a href="mailto:mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net">mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net</a>  <b>District 3: Councilmember Chris Holden</b>  Field Representative: Jacqueline McIntyre  (626) 744-4738 <a href="mailto:jmcintyre@cityofpasadena.net">jmcintyre@cityofpasadena.net</a>  <b>District 4: Councilmember Gene Masuda</b>  Field Representative: Noreen Sullivan  (626) 744-4740 <a href="mailto:nsullivan@cityofpasadena.net">nsullivan@cityofpasadena.net</a>  <b>District 5: Councilmember Victor M. Gordo,</b>  Field Representative: Vannia DeLaCuba  (626) 744-4741 <a href="mailto:vdelacuba@cityofpasadena.net">vdelacuba@cityofpasadena.net</a>  <b>District 6: Councilmember Steve Madison</b>  Field Representative: Takako Suzuki  (626) 744-4739 <a href="mailto:smadison@cityofpasadena.net">smadison@cityofpasadena.net</a>  <b>District 7: Councilmember Terry Tornek</b>  Field Representative: Pam Thyret  (626) 744-4802 <a href="mailto:ttornek@cityofpasadena.net">ttornek@cityofpasadena.net</a></p>
<p><b>Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA 29th District)</b>  Website: <a href="http://schiff.house.gov">schiff.house.gov</a>  <b>Pasadena Office:</b>  87 North Raymond Avenue, Suite 800  Pasadena, California 91103  (626) 304-2727  Fax: (626) 304-0572</p>	
<p><b>Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)</b>  Website: <a href="http://feinstein.senate.gov">feinstein.senate.gov</a>  11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915  Los Angeles, CA 90025  (310) 914-7300  Fax: (310) 914-7318</p>	
<p><b>County of LA Board of Supervisors</b>    <b>Michael Antonovich</b>  Hall of Administration  500 W. Temple Street  Los Angeles, CA 90012  (213) 974-5555  <a href="mailto:Fifthdistrict@lasbos.org">Fifthdistrict@lasbos.org</a></p>	
<p><b>Office of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)</b>  Website: <a href="http://boxer.senate.gov">boxer.senate.gov</a>  312 N. Spring St. Suite 1748  Los Angeles, CA 90012  (213) 894-5000  (202) 224-0357 fax</p>	
<p><b>Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA 32nd District)</b>  Website: <a href="http://chu.house.gov/">http://chu.house.gov/</a>  4401 Santa Anita Avenue, Suite 201  El Monte, CA 91731  Phone: (626) 448-1271  Fax: (626) 448-8062</p>	